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Canada. Royal Commission on the
Cost of Living, Coal Mining
Industry, District Eighteen
Third Report

DEPT. OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

Government
Publications

COST OF LIVING COMMISSION, COAL MINING INDUSTRY, DISTRICT EIGHTEEN

Third Report520 Lougheed Building,
Calgary, Alberta,
January 10th, 1941.J. McGregor Stewart, Esq.,
Coal Administrator,
The Wartime Prices and Trade Board,
OTTAWA, Canada.

Dear Sir:

1. Acting under the authority and instructions contained in Order-in-Council P.C. 1802, dated May 4th., 1940, and a Commission issued to the undersigned on May 4th., 1940, under the Inquiries Act, Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927, Chapter 99, empowering them, from time to time, to inquire into and determine the amounts, if any, to be paid by way of a cost-of-living bonus to the employees of the Coal Mining Operators of the Provinces of Alberta and British Columbia, and requiring the said Commission to transmit its reports to the Coal Administrator, we beg to submit herewith for your consideration a report upon the changes in the cost of living in the coal-mining areas of Alberta and British Columbia over the period March 31, 1938 to December 2nd, 1940.

2. Reports on retail prices as at December 2nd, 1940, supported in each case by a Statutory Declaration, were secured from every retail merchant, except one who had gone out of business, and every milk distributor on the mailing list of the Commission. Copies of the price reports made by 158 retail merchants and 29 milk distributors were forwarded to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics to be used in determining the average prices of the necessities of life as at December 2, 1940. An analysis by areas of price reports used in determining price averages for March 31, 1938; August 1, 1940, and December 2, 1940, follows:

	AREA	Number of Price Quotations								
		March 31, 1938			August 1, 1940			December 2, 1940		
		Meat	Groc-eries	Cloth-ing	Meat	Groc-eries	Cloth-ing	Meat	Groc-eries	Cloth-ing
(1)	Crow's Nest Pass, C.P.R.	14	19	15	20	26	16	20	26	16
(2)	Drumheller Valley and Carbon	14	22	13	16	25	14	15	25	14
(3)	Coal Branch C.N.R.	3	5	4	5	6	5	5	6	5
(4)	Edmonton Field and Hinton	8	11	7	11	15	8	13	15	8
(5)	Lethbridge, C.P.R.	5	5	7	6	7	7	6	7	7
(6)	Brazeau Branch, C.N.R.	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
(7)	Calgary-Canmore	5	6	9	8	7	9	8	7	9
(8)	Vancouver Island	6	15	10	12	19	12	12	19	12
	TOTAL	58	86	67	81	108	74	82	108	74



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3. In calculating changes in the cost of living over the period March 31, 1938, to December 2nd, 1940, the following increases resulting from war taxation, as determined by the Coal Administrator, have been deducted from the average price quotations of the enumerated commodities as at the specified dates:

Commodity	March 31, 1940	August 1/40	December 2nd, 1940
Tea	5.40 ¢ per lb	7.40 ¢ per lb	7.40 ¢ per lb.
Coffee . . .	12.85 " "	14.00 " "	13.383 " "
Canned Fish	1.28 " "	1.28 " "	1.28 " "
Smoked Meats	1.745 " "	1.745 " "	1.7448 " "
Shortening . . . . .			.06 " "
Bread . . . . .			.25 " "
Flour . . . . .			.357 " "
Rice . . . . .			.1404 " "
Oranges			1.095 " "
Bananas . . . . .			.159 " "
Prunes . . . . .			.452 " "
Marmalade . . . . .			.137 " "

As at December 2, 1940, war taxation amounted to 17.20 cents per week on the food section of the Commission's budget, to 1.65 cents per week on the clothing and furnishings sections combined, and to a total of 18.85 cents per week on the Commission's budget of the necessities of life.

4. A comparative statement of the costs per week of food, clothing, furnishings, etc., as at March 31, 1938; March 31, 1940; August 1, 1940, and December 2, 1940, with war taxation deducted, follows:-

CLASSIFICATION:	March 31, 1938	March 31, 1940	August 1/40	December 2/40
Food	\$ 8.9609	\$ 9.1997	\$ 9.1899	\$ 9.4895
Clothing	2.745	2.945	3.0204	3.0785
Furnishings	.2958	.32	.3269	.3297
TOTAL	12.0017	12.4647	12.5372	12.8977

The Commission's budget, showing commodities, allowances, unit prices, and costs as at March 31, 1938, August 1, 1940, and December 2, 1940, is attached to this report. Comparative unit prices and costs as at March 31, 1940, may be found in the First and Second Reports of the Commission.

5. The total weekly cost of the Commission's budget of the necessities of life, which was \$12.00 at March 31, 1938, has been found to be \$13.0862 as at December 2, 1940, indicating an increase in the cost of the necessities of life amounting to \$1.0862, or 9.1 per cent over the period. After deduction of increases in the cost of living attributable to increased taxation, as provided in the Supplementary Agreements (1940) between the United Mine Workers of America, District 18, and the Coal Operators of Alberta and British Columbia, the increase amounts to 90 cents or 7.5 per cent. Since the increase indicated exceeds the 5 per cent change required in the Supplementary Agreements, the Commission finds that a cost-of-living bonus is payable for the period January 1, 1941, to April 30, 1941, to all coal-mining employees in District Eighteen coming within the jurisdiction of the said Agreements.

6. The Commission recommends that, inasmuch as the average number of days worked per week in the coal-mining industry of Alberta and British Columbia in 1940 did not exceed five, the cost-of-living bonus should be calculated on the basis of a five-day working week and that, accordingly, the sum of eighteen (18) cents should be added to the daily wages of each coal-mining employee coming within the

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jurisdiction of the Supplementary Agreements, providing, however, that the said daily bonus of eighteen (18) cents shall be payable to any coal-mining employee for a maximum of six (6) days in any one calendar week.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

(Signed) G. E. Britnell
CHAIRMAN.

(Signed) Garfield Graham
COMMISSIONER.

(Signed) C. Stubbs
COMMISSIONER.

COST OF LIVING COMMISSION, COAL MINING INDUSTRY, DISTRICT EIGHTEEN

Comparative Statement of the weekly cost, less war taxation, of a Family Budget of Staple Foods on the basis of average prices obtained from retail merchants serving coal mining communities in District Eighteen as at March 31, 1938; August 1, 1940; and December 2nd, 1940.

COMMODITY	Budget Allowance		Average Price (Per Unit)			Comparative Cost (Miner's Budget)		
	Per Week		Mar 31	Aug. 1	Dec. 2	Mar. 31	Aug. 1	Dec. 2
			1938	1940	1940	1938	1940	1940
<u>Dairy Products:</u>								
Milk	12.	qts	\$.111	\$.111	\$.113	\$1.3320	\$1.3320	\$1.3560
Butter	3.2	lbs	.352	.276	.355	1.1264	.8832	1.1360
Cheese	.4	lbs	.244	.258	.258	.0976	.1032	.1032
Eggs:	1.666	doz	.266	.270	.428	.4432	.4498	.7105
<u>Meat & Fish:</u>								
Sirloin Steak	.75	lbs	.242	.274	.271	.1815	.2055	.2033
Round Steak	1.	lb	.206	.235	.234	.2060	.2350	.2340
Rolled Rib Roast	1.	lb	.206	.233	.231	.2060	.2330	.2310
Blade Roast	1.25	lbs	.142	.167	.167	.1775	.2087	.2088
Stewing Beef	1.25	lbs	.122	.143	.143	.1525	.1787	.1788
Veal	1.	lb	.156	.173	.175	.1560	.1730	.1750
Lamb	.5	lbs	.271	.291	.283	.1355	.1455	.1415
Pork, fresh, loins	1.	lb	.267	.262	.259	.2670	.2620	.2590
Pork, fresh, shoulder	.5	lbs	.203	.195	.199	.1015	.0975	.0995
Ham	.25	lbs	.404	.3725	.387	.1010	.0931	.0968
Bacon	.75	lbs	.362	.3166	.328	.2715	.2374	.2460
Halibut, fresh	.5	lbs	.227	.234	.245	.1135	.1170	.1225
Finnan Haddie	.1	lb	.210	.213	.228	.0210	.0213	.0228
Canned Salmon	.3	lbs	.137	.1512	.164	.0411	.0454	.0492
Lard	.2	lbs	.157	.106	.102	.0314	.0212	.0204
Shortening	.1	lb	.149	.134	.126	.0149	.0134	.0126
<u>Cereals:</u>								
Bread	15.	lbs	.081	.081	.081	1.2150	1.2150	1.2150
Flour	4.	lbs	.0459	.0358	.030	.1836	.1432	.1200
Rice	.25	lbs	.079	.087	.089	.0197	.0218	.0223
Macaroni	.25	lbs	.1075	.1070	.105	.0269	.0267	.0263
Rolled Oats	.5	lbs	.060	.060	.057	.0300	.0300	.0285
Cornflakes	2.5	pkgs	.092	.089	.089	.2300	.2225	.2225
<u>Dry Groceries:</u>								
Sugar, granulated	5.5	lbs	.070	.080	.081	.3850	.4400	.4455
Tea	.4	lbs	.526	.557	.561	.2104	.2228	.2244
Coffee	.4	lbs	.341	.323	.333	.1364	.1292	.1332
Salt	.5	lbs	.041	.040	.045	.0205	.0220	.0225
<u>Vegetables:</u>								
Potatoes (Unit 60#)	15.	lbs	.746	1.594	.84	.1865	.3985	.2100
Onions	1.	lb	.043	.058	.041	.0430	.0580	.0410
Beans	.2	lbs	.062	.079	.080	.0124	.0158	.0160
Canned Tomatoes #2½	.75	tin	.129	.156	.145	.0968	.1170	.1088
Canned Corn, 16 oz.	.5	tin	.120	.127	.127	.0600	.0635	.0635
Canned Peas, 16 oz.	.75	tin	.121	.133	.131	.0908	.0998	.0983
Canned Beans " "	.5	tin	.123	.135	.131	.0615	.0675	.0655
<u>Fruits:</u>								
Raisins	.2	lbs	.1585	.1625	.163	.0317	.0325	.0326
Currants	.1	lb	.148	.156	.153	.0148	.0156	.0153
Prunes	.2	lbs	.111	.119	.115	.0222	.0238	.0230
Bananas	1.	lb	.122	.129	.126	.1220	.1290	.1260
Oranges	1.	doz	.283	.332	.315	.2830	.3320	.3150
Jam, Strawberry (Unit 4 lbs)	.8	lbs	.601	.611	.612	.1202	.1222	.1224
Marmalade (Unit 4#)	.1	lb	.490	.525	.520	.0122	.0131	.0130
Corn Syrup (Unit 5#)	.3	lbs	.432	.449	.480	.0260	.0269	.0288
Canned Peaches, 16 oz.	.8	tin	.179	.182	.179	.1432	.1456	.1432
						\$8.9609	\$9.1899	\$9.4895

COST OF LIVING COMMISSION, COAL MINING INDUSTRY, DISTRICT EIGHTEEN

Comparative Statement of the weekly cost, less war taxation, of a Family Budget of Clothing on the basis of average prices obtained from retail merchants serving coal mining communities in District Eighteen as at March 31, 1938; August 1, 1940; and December 2, 1940.

ARTICLE	Annual Budget Allowance	Average Price (Per Unit)			Comparative Cost (Miner's Budget)		
		Mar 31 1938	Aug. 1 1940	Dec. 2 1940	Mar. 31 1938	Aug. 1 1940	Dec. 2 1940
SUMMARY OF ANNUAL CLOTHING BUDGET							
Men's					\$ 51.52	\$ 57.99	\$ 59.396
Women's					41.08	44.309	44.757
Boys'					20.10	22.531	23.241
Girls'					17.36	18.905	19.171
Infants'					8.03	8.30	8.407
Piece Goods					4.63	5.025	5.112
TOTAL					\$142.72	\$157.06	\$160.084
Men's:							
Overcoats, Winter . . . . .	.3	\$18.65	\$21.03	\$21.609	5.60	6.309	6.483
Raincoats . . . . .	.2	6.24	6.91	6.988	1.25	1.382	1.398
Windbreakers . . . . .	.3	4.94	5.49	5.695	1.48	1.647	1.709
Suits . . . . .	.4	23.21	26.83	27.606	9.28	10.732	11.042
Trousers . . . . .	.5	4.08	4.73	4.989	2.04	2.365	2.495
Overalls	2.	1.67	1.81	1.832	3.34	3.620	3.664
Sweaters . . . . .	.2	3.76	4.35	4.390	.75	.870	.878
Shirts, broadcloth	1.	1.73	1.77	1.804	1.73	1.770	1.804
Shirts, work	2.	1.18	1.30	1.341	2.36	2.600	2.682
Underwear:							
Combinations, wool	1.	2.96	3.48	3.750	2.96	3.480	3.750
Shirts, cotton	2.	.49	.51	.508	.98	1.020	1.016
Shorts, cotton	2.	.48	.51	.508	.96	1.020	1.016
Pyjamas	1.	1.76	1.89	1.926	1.76	1.890	1.926
Ties	1.	.73	.74	.750	.73	.740	.750
Socks, dress	2.	.51	.56	.580	1.02	1.120	1.160
Socks, work	4.	.44	.57	.600	1.76	2.280	2.400
Gloves, dress . . . . .	.5	1.30	1.40	1.435	.65	.700	.710
Gloves, work	1.5	1.10	1.25	1.255	1.65	1.875	1.885
Hats . . . . .	.5	3.13	3.22	3.220	1.56	1.610	1.610
Caps . . . . .	.5	1.15	1.21	1.230	.58	.605	.615
Boots, work	1.5	3.93	4.56	4.560	5.90	6.840	6.840
Oxfords . . . . .	.5	4.46	5.01	5.080	2.23	2.505	2.540
Rubbers	1.	.95	1.01	1.017	.95	1.010	1.017
					\$51.52	\$57.990	\$59.396
Women's:							
Topcoats . . . . .	.2	18.15	20.45	20.853	3.63	4.090	4.167
Topcoats, Fall & Spring . . . . .	.2	12.49	14.95	14.966	2.50	2.990	2.993
Skirts	1.	2.39	2.73	2.800	2.39	2.730	2.800
Blouses	1.	2.14	2.21	2.230	2.14	2.210	2.230
Dresses:							
Afternoon or Street	1.	4.88	4.93	4.980	4.88	4.930	4.980
House	2.	1.67	1.73	1.737	3.34	3.460	3.474
Sweaters or Cardigans . . . . .	.2	2.34	2.58	2.610	.47	.516	.522
Hose, Silk	2.	.94	1.01	.981	1.88	2.020	1.962
Hose, Silk Semi-service	2.	.79	.86	.847	1.58	1.720	1.694
Hose, Rayon, etc.	2.	.48	.53	.550	.96	1.060	1.100
Hose, Lisle	2.	.36	.42	.429	.72	.840	.858
Vests	2.	.46	.49	.509	.92	.980	1.018
Bloomers, etc.	4.	.42	.45	.469	1.68	1.800	1.876
Slips	1.5	.89	.95	.968	1.34	1.425	1.452
Nightgowns or Pyjamas	1.	1.40	1.55	1.587	1.40	1.550	1.587
Gloves	1.	1.32	1.42	1.450	1.32	1.420	1.450
Shoes	1.	4.01	4.24	4.275	4.01	4.240	4.275
Oxfords	1.	3.01	3.26	3.235	3.01	3.260	3.235
overshoes . . . . .	.3	2.58	2.53	2.554	.77	.759	.760
Rubbers . . . . .	.3	.71	.73	.728	.21	.219	.218
					\$41.08	\$44.309	\$44.757

COST OF LIVING COMMISSION, COAL MINING INDUSTRY, DISTRICT EIGHTEEN

ARTICLE	Annual Budget Allowance	Average Price (Per Unit)			Comparative Cost (Miner's Budget)		
		Mar 31	Aug. 1	Dec. 2	Mar 31	Aug. 1	Dec. 2
		1938	1940	1940	1938	1940	1940
<u>Boys' (11-14 years):</u>							
Windbreakers	.4	3.06	3.41	3.570	1.22	1.364	1.428
Suits	.4	9.18	10.96	11.186	3.67	4.384	4.474
Breeches or Trousers	1.5	2.25	2.51	2.655	3.38	3.765	3.983
Sweaters	.3	1.43	1.66	1.728	.43	.498	.518
Shirts	2.	.82	.88	.896	1.64	1.760	1.792
Underwear	2.	.98	1.07	1.098	1.96	2.140	2.196
Pyjamas	.5	1.19	1.17	1.193	.60	.585	.597
Socks or Stockings	4.	.39	.45	.470	1.56	1.800	1.880
Caps	1.	.74	.78	.800	.74	.780	.800
Mitts	.5	.72	.75	.777	.36	.375	.389
Shoes	1.5	2.77	3.12	3.190	4.15	4.680	4.785
Rubbers	.5	.77	.80	.798	.39	.400	.399
					\$20.10	\$22.531	\$23.241
<u>Girls' (6-10 years):</u>							
Coats	.5	8.24	9.02	9.058	4.12	4.510	4.529
Dresses	1.3	1.47	1.54	1.597	1.91	2.002	2.076
Sweaters	.3	1.54	1.71	1.750	.46	.513	.525
Combinations	1.	1.08	1.10	1.133	1.08	1.100	1.133
Vests	1.	.33	.36	.369	.33	.360	.369
Bloomers	2.	.33	.36	.369	.66	.720	.738
Waists	1.	.37	.42	.419	.37	.420	.419
Slips	.5	.68	.74	.740	.34	.370	.370
Nightgowns or Pyjamas	.5	1.04	1.12	1.134	.52	.560	.567
Stockings	6.	.39	.43	.439	2.34	2.580	2.634
Hats or Berets	1.	.84	.88	.889	.84	.880	.889
Gloves or Mitts	1.	.45	.52	.530	.45	.520	.530
Shoes	1.5	2.43	2.70	2.715	3.64	4.050	4.073
Rubbers	.5	.61	.64	.638	.30	.320	.319
					\$17.36	\$18.905	\$19.171
<u>Infants' (up to 3 years):</u>							
Coats	.5	3.85	3.57	3.666	1.93	1.785	1.833
Dresses	1.	1.15	1.21	1.220	1.15	1.210	1.220
Playsuits	1.	.97	1.03	1.032	.97	1.030	1.032
Socks or Stockings	2.	.36	.39	.400	.72	.780	.800
Underwear	2.	.37	.41	.407	.74	.820	.814
Nightwear	.5	.74	.75	.756	.37	.375	.378
Bonnets	1.	.56	.59	.600	.56	.590	.600
Mittens	2.	.33	.36	.370	.66	.720	.740
Shoes	1.	.93	.99	.990	.93	.990	.990
					\$ 8.03	\$ 8.300	\$ 8.407
<u>Piece Goods:</u>							
Cotton	4.	.23	.25	.258	.92	1.000	1.032
Celanese	2.	.59	.64	.640	1.18	1.280	1.280
Rayon	2.	.43	.46	.460	.86	.920	.920
Woollen	.5	1.42	1.73	1.840	.71	.865	.920
Cotton Thread	12.	.08	.08	.080	.96	.960	.960
					\$ 4.63	\$ 5.025	\$ 5.112

FURNISHINGS, ETC.

Sheets (per pair)	1.	\$ 2.59	\$ 2.73	\$ 2.781	\$ 2.59	\$ 2.730	\$ 2.781
Blankets	.5	9.28	11.43	12.040	4.64	5.715	6.020
Towels, Bath	2.	.51	.56	.580	1.02	1.120	1.160
Towels, Ordinary	2.	.38	.40	.408	.76	.800	.816
Soap (1/2 lb. bars)	130.	.049	.051	.049	6.37	6.630	6.370
					\$15.38	\$16.995	\$17.147

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO MINER'S FAMILY BUDGET
DISTRICT 18

1. FOOD

GENERAL NOTE: In framing the food budget substantial increases over D.B.S. survey figures (after these had been adjusted for a family of five) were made in the budgetary allowances of the heavier foods: allowances of Meat, Eggs, Bread and Potatoes were increased a full 10 per cent in each case and allowances of Milk, Butter and Sugar, by 5 per cent. As compensation for the exclusion of any wide range of fresh fruit and vegetables from the budget (owing to the difficulty of securing adequate price data and the seasonal fluctuations in both consumption and prices of such fresh fruits and vegetables), the allowances of Dried Fruits, Oranges and Onions were increased 10 per cent and the allowances of Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruits, Jams, etc., were increased 25 per cent.

1. Milk allowance to include cream.
2. Butter, basis creamery, but allowance to include dairy and peanut.
3. Cheese, basis Canadian, but allowance to include all cheese.
4. Eggs, basis fresh, but allowance to include packed, etc.
5. Meat allowance to include poultry.
6. Halibut allowance to include all fresh and frozen fish.
7. Finnan Haddie allowance to include all cured fish.
8. Canned Salmon allowance to include all canned fish.
9. Lard and Shortening allowances to include all lard substitutes except butter.
10. Macaroni allowance to include tapioca.
11. Corn Flake allowance to include all breakfast cereals, except Rolled Oats.
12. Sugar, granulated, allowance to include yellow sugar.
13. Tea and Coffee allowances jointly to include cocoa.
14. Prune allowance to include all other dried fruits except raisins and currants.
15. Orange allowance to include lemons.
16. Jam, strawberry, allowance to include all jams.
17. Corn Syrup allowance to include all syrups.
18. Canned Peaches allowance to include all canned fruits.

2. CLOTHING

GENERAL NOTE: In framing the clothing budget an attempt has been made to compensate for the exclusion of a number of smaller articles upon which it would be difficult to secure adequate price data by slightly increased allowances for the wider range of articles upon which adequate price data is obtainable. Cotton, Celanese, Rayon and Woollen piece good materials are included to lend some flexibility to and also to round out women's and children's allowances.

1. Men's Overcoat, winter, allowance to include light overcoat where worn.
2. Men's Shoes, street, allowance to include light shoes and slippers.
3. Men's Boots, work, allowance to include gum rubber boots where worn.
4. Men's Glove allowances to include work, dress, wool and cotton gloves.
5. Women's Dress, street, allowance to include evening or other dresses.
6. Women's Shoe and Oxford allowances to include light shoes and slippers.
7. Boy's Windbreaker allowance to include overcoat where worn.
8. Boy's Shoe allowance to include all kinds of shoes worn.
9. Girl's Shoe allowance to include all kinds of shoes worn.
10. Infant's Dress and Playsuit allowances to include linen and wool suits, rompers, etc.
11. Infant's Shoe allowance to include all types worn.
12. Cotton thread allowance to include linen, wool, silk floss for mending, needles, pins, etc.

3. FURNISHINGS, ETC.

1. Sheet and blanket allowances to include pillows, pillowslips, comforters, etc.
2. Soap allowance to include all soap required for laundry and other purposes, soap flakes, laundry starch, lye, bluing materials, etc.

